

Application No.: 10/568,194

Response to Final Office Action of August 31, 2009

Attorney Docket: NOTAR-033US

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following at page 13, line 18:

A sample of the MMH cells has been deposited under the Budapest Treaty at the Centro di Biotecnologie Avanzate – Interlab Cell Line Collection. The accession number for the deposit is PD09003. The date of deposit is November 18, 2009. The name of the depository is Centro Di Biotecnologie Avanzate-Interlab Cell Line Collection. The address of the depository is L.go Rosanna Benzi, 10-16132 Genoa-Italy. The deposited material corresponds to the c-Met Murine Hepatocytes (MMH, clone 5/2) and whose isolation has been disclosed in a scientific publication (Amicone, et al. The EMBO Journal, 1997; 16:495-503). As summarized in the scientific publication, the deposited material relates to “Livers from foetuses or newborns were dissected and mechanically dissociated (five strokes in a loose-fitting Potter), and plated at high density on collagen III (Sigma)-coated Nunc Petri dishes in RPMI 1640 containing 10% fetal calf serum (FCS), 2mM L-glutamine, 100u/ml penicillin and 100ug/ml streptomycin supplemented with 50ng/ml EGF, 30ng/ml IGF-II, 10 mg/ml insulin and antibiotics. After overnight incubation, the majority of cells had attached. The semi-confluent cultures were washed and maintained without transfer. After 5-6 weeks, a number of epithelial islands displaying hepatocyte-like morphology were visible in both transgenic and control cultures. These islands were left on the primary dishes for other few weeks, during which time the neighbouring cells degenerated, permitting easy picking of each island, presumably containing the progeny of one cell. The recovered colonies were expanded slowly in dishes of increasing size, and frozen after ~25 cell generations. Passages are calculated from initial thawing. These cells grow as cobblestone epithelial monolayers and do not display any features of transformation. They failed to grow in soft agar and to form tumours in nude mice.”